

Remarks

Claims 66 and 69-70 are pending. Claims 66-68 and 71-73 have been cancelled herein. Claim 66 has been amended to overcome an objection that it included non-elected subject matter. The specification has been amended to update the Cross Reference to Related Application section and to include required sequence identifiers. No new matter has been added.

Specification

The Examiner has requested that sequence identifiers for all amino acid peptides that are over three amino acids in length be included in the specification. Applicants have made the appropriate corrections. A sequence listing for these new sequence identifiers is being filed concurrently herewith.

The Examiner has requested that the Cross Reference To Related Applications Section of the specification on page 1 be updated. Applicants have made the appropriate correction.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 66-67 and 69 as having non-elected subject matter within the claims. Applicants have amended claim 66 to clarify that the ADMP comprises amino acids 1-837 of SEQ ID NO:2. As claim 67 has been cancelled herein and as claim 69 depends from claim 66, Applicants believe that this amendment obviates the outstanding objections to these claims.

Rejection under Section 112, second paragraph (Indefiniteness)

The Examiner has rejected claim 70 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that claim 70 is indefinite because antibodies by themselves cannot detect compounds since they do not have any ability to transmit information about the location of the compound they have bound. Applicants respectfully point out, however, that claim 70 includes the non-limiting term "comprising" which means that the recited step of contacting the sample with an antibody of claim 66 is only a required step, but that other steps may also be present within the scope of the claim.

For example, as stated on page 30, line 6 of the specification, established assay protocols may be used to detect the binding of an inventive antibody to an ADMP molecule. Clearly, one

skilled in the art, would readily be able to label the inventive antibodies in such a way that detection of the binding of an inventive antibody to an ADMP molecule is possible.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, is appropriate and is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Please direct any questions regarding this reply to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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